

Brussels, January 24th 2012

CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE TO IMPROVE MONITORING OF HATE CRIMES IN EUROPE

Representatives of the European Union, law-enforcement officials, and experts on racism will gather in The Hague on January 25-27 to share information on monitoring hate crimes in Europe. The conference is the first step of a project, known as *Facing Facts!*, intended to develop uniform standards and greater reporting of hate crimes throughout the EU.

This two-day conference is organized by CEJI, a Brussels-based Jewish organization and leading advocate against discrimination and hosted by *CIDI – Dutch Centre for Documentation and Information Israel*, based at the Hague. The program is intended to identify the best practices for monitoring hate crimes, to integrate information in the EU, and to improve cooperation between public authorities and NGOs. It comes in response to rising hate crimes in Europe, and the lack of systematic analysis and approach to confront hate crimes in the EU and its member states..

Heading the list of international experts are Paul Giannasi, Police Superintendent of the UK Ministry of Justice and Joanna Perry, Hate Crime Officer, OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The conference will include both an experts' meeting and a public forum convening of NGOs and public officials from The Netherlands including Ahmed Marcouch, Member of Parliament for the Social Democratic party PvdA.

Facing Facts! is a two year project financed by the European Commission aiming to improve monitoring and recording of hate crimes and incidents throughout Europe. CEJI, A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, is the lead coordinator of the process, including seminars, development of guidelines, and recommendations.. Other partners are the CST – Community Security Trust (UK), the CIDI and the COC – Federation of Dutch Associations for the integration of Homosexuality (Netherlands). ILGA – Europe (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association) is an associate partner to the project.

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CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe stands with individuals and organisations of all religions, cultures and backgrounds to promote a diverse and inclusive Europe. A Jewish voice at a European level, our activities include delivering [diversity education](#), facilitating and contributing to [networks](#), enhancing inter-faith and inter-cultural [dialogue](#), [advocacy](#) at a European level and facilitating [Jewish participation](#) in the European Union.